

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 3986

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the collection of fines, fees, and court costs in
3 criminal actions and proceedings.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Article 103.003, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
6 amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

7 (a-1) The clerk of a municipal court may collect money
8 payable to the municipal court under this title.

9 SECTION 2. Article 103.0081, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 Art. 103.0081. UNCOLLECTIBLE FINES AND FEES. (a) Any
12 officer authorized by this chapter to collect a fine, fee, or item
13 of cost may request the trial court in which a criminal action or
14 proceeding was held to make a finding that a fine, fee, or item of
15 cost imposed in the action or proceeding is uncollectible if the
16 officer believes:

- 17 (1) the defendant is deceased;
18 (2) the defendant is serving a sentence for
19 imprisonment for life or life without parole; or
20 (3) the fine, fee, or item of cost has been unpaid for
21 at least 15 years.

22 (b) On a finding by a court that any condition described by
23 Subsections (a)(1)-(3) is true, the court may order the officer to
24 designate the fine, fee, or item of cost as uncollectible in the fee

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1 record. The officer shall attach a copy of the court's order to the
2 fee record.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.